GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2346
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2016
FTA Between India and Australia
Rajendran Shri S.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Australia are underway;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the talks on a Trade Agreement between the two countries have been delayed;
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
(e) the steps taken by the Government for zero duty on auto parts, textiles, fresh fruits, etc. in the service sector?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) : Yes Madam. A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Australia is under negotiation.

(b) to (d): Nine Rounds of negotiations and a number of inter-sessional meetings have been held so far between the two sides. In the process of negotiations the two sides have exchanged two rounds of offers in goods market access and services market access. These have been examined by both sides. The conclusion of CECA negotiations will also depend upon the negotiation strategy of Australian side, on which Government of India has no control.

(e): Details of negotiations cannot be informed at this stage.

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